

**ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 17, 2017 at 2:00 PM
CITY HALL, MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM**

Committee Present:	Councilmember Roberto C. Treviño, <i>District 1, Chair</i> Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, <i>District 5</i> Councilmember Greg Brockhouse, <i>District 6</i>
Committee Absent:	Councilmember William “Cruz” Shaw, <i>District 2</i>
Staff Present:	Lori Houston, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Roderick Sanchez, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Colleen Swain, <i>Director of World Heritage Office</i> ; Shanon Shea Miller, <i>Director of Historic Preservation</i> ; Joseph DeCenzo, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Melissa Ramirez, <i>Assistant Director of Development Services</i> ; Jay Podjenski, <i>District 1 Chief of Staff</i> ; Dan DeBauche, <i>District 3 Chief of Staff</i> ; Rhea Roberts, <i>Special Project Manager</i> ; Shannon Oster-Gabrielson, <i>Executive Management Assistant</i> ; Cecily Hope Pretty, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	Rachel Brehm, <i>Centro San Antonio</i> ; Salvador Garza, <i>Visit San Antonio</i>

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Treviño called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of the minutes from the September 19, 2017 Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee meeting.

Councilmember Gonzales moved to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2017 Arts, Culture and Heritage Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Brockhouse seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

2. A briefing and update on the World Heritage Work Plan.

Ms. Colleen Swain provided an overview of the World Heritage Office’s responsibilities and geographical areas of oversight. She noted the department’s outreach efforts in the community including symposia, stakeholder meetings, Neighborhood Association engagements, and an annual Open House. She stated that the World Heritage Work Plan incorporated the following components:

- Infrastructure
- Transportation
- Beautification
- Wayfinding
- Small Business

- Marketing
- Land Use
- Alamo Master Plan

Ms. Swain noted that the department identified \$47 million in need and received \$2.8 million for Street, Traffic, and Sidewalk Projects in Fiscal Year 2017 and \$37 million for World Heritage Projects as part of the 2017-2022 Bond Program. She noted that a portion of the Bond Funds would be used to install World Heritage signs in the Roosevelt Corridor and the Department of Center City Development and Operations would place the World Heritage Office's logo on downtown signs directing visitors to the Alamo. She stated that the department was working with the Office of Historic Preservation to cover chain link fences with banners showing photos and stories related to The Missions. She noted collaboration with the Department of Arts and Culture to create 10 murals throughout the Mission Reach. She stated that CPS would place utility lines underground beginning with Mission San Juan. She highlighted the creation of a mobile responsive website to connect visitors to small businesses within a two-mile radius of The Missions and the future installation of free wi-fi. She outlined Small Business Development requirements for inclusion in the Small Business Registry and described assistance programs such as Operation Facelift, LaunchSA, LiftFund, and a new grant program to provide matching funds for façade, parking lot, landscaping, or signage improvements. She noted collaborative efforts with Visit San Antonio and \$20 million in advertising value they had received at no cost through that collaboration. She provided an overview of outreach efforts including Siclovía, UNESCO's Creative Cities Network, the World Heritage Ambassador Program, WorldHeritageSA.com, and the World Heritage Festival. She noted the creation of the Mission Historic District, amendments to Land Use Plans, and current examination of zoning and commercial corridors.

Councilmember Viagran entered the meeting during Ms. Swain's presentation.

Councilmember Treviño suggested that the Small Business Development region be extended to include The Alamo and asked of the department's participation in the 2018 Tricentennial Celebration. Ms. Swain stated that they would be assisting and participating in various events but their primary event would be the 2018 World Heritage Festival.

Councilmember Brockhouse asked of business response to maintenance and improvement grant opportunities. Ms. Swain replied that their area had the highest number of applications to Operation FaceLift and that two businesses received funds. Councilmember Brockhouse expressed concern over balancing the funding of improvements with maintaining reasonable property assessments so that businessowners and residents would not be priced out of their areas. He suggested examination of other assistance options such as fee waivers or tax abatements. Ms. Swain stated that the Small Business Development Grant Program was subject to approval by the Historic Design and Review Commission and City Council in December 2017 and would be re-evaluated after a pilot period.

Councilmember Treviño asked that the Committee be included in the development of grant parameters moving forward.

Councilmember Viagran expressed support for the new grant opportunities for legacy businessowners and concurred with Councilmember Brockhouse's suggestions for other avenues

of assistance. She asked that deliverables in partner programs be clearly defined to provide an accurate assessment of Returns on Investment.

No action was required for Item 2.

3. Potential amendments to the Unified Development Code (UDC) relating to Burden of Proof requirements for Demolition of a Historic Structure.

Mrs. Shanon Shea Miller stated that the issue of the UDC requirements for demolition of historic structures was raised through a Council Consideration Request (CCR) from Councilmember Treviño. She provided an overview of the current review process and requirements for demolition. She stated that the UDC language regarding evidence for demolition had been modified in 2015 from the terms “clear and convincing” and “preponderance” to “sufficient” as suggested by the City Attorney for better defensibility in court. She outlined the following recommendations for further revisions:

- Clarify that the city can obtain its own estimates for rehabilitation costs
- Require Neighborhood Association Meetings during review periods
- Update economic hardship criteria to clarify that a property must have been owned by the current owner for at least two years
- Clarify the role of the Board of Adjustment in the appeals process and remove the possibility of introducing new evidence or information not previously considered by the Historic Design and Review Commission

Chairman Treviño asked for additional explanation as to why “sufficient” evidence was the preferred terminology. Mr. Joseph DeCenzo replied that the previous language choices allowed an unfair advantage at the Board of Adjustment for applicants with legal expertise and that “sufficient” evidence allowed a more defensible stance should a decision be appealed in District Court.

Councilmember Viagran asked of linguistic differences in the UDC regarding homestead properties and investment properties. Mrs. Miller replied that there were currently no distinctions in language between the two but that requirements were in place to discourage property flipping such as approved replacement plans and fees.

Councilmember Brockhouse asked if the two-year ownership requirement was sufficient to discourage owners from neglecting a property over that time to be eligible for demolition by neglect. Mrs. Miller replied that there were enforceable minimum standards of maintenance for historically designated properties to discourage neglect. Councilmember Brockhouse asked how rehabilitation assessments were obtained and utilized. Mrs. Miller replied that while there would be variation in assessments based on contractors, the assessments helped staff to judge whether or not an applicant’s estimate was reasonable and to determine a likely average cost.

Councilmember Brockhouse moved to forward Item 3 to the full City Council for consideration. Councilmember Gonzales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

4. Future items for discussion.

Chairman Treviño stated that future items would include updates on the Downtown Cultural Plan, Cul-Tú-Art Plan, and La Villita's Culinary Concept.

No action was required for Item 4.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roberto C. Treviño, Chairman

*Cecily Hope Pretty
Office of the City Clerk*